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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

25 June 1968

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the President  
(Mr. Rostow)

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Deputy Under Secretary of State for  
Political Affairs

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Request for Relaxation of the 303 Committee  
Mission-by-Mission Approval Restriction on  
the IDEALIST/TACKLE Program

1. Target coverage [redacted]  
can be intensified by relaxation of the mission-by-mission  
approval restriction. Removal of this restriction would  
provide improved reaction capability to good weather areas  
over the Chinese mainland. The rapidly changing weather  
conditions in China, though frequently providing areas of  
good weather during the summer months, make it difficult to  
generate a mission taking advantage of the good weather  
areas unless planning is based on short-range weather  
forecasts. The ability to react quickly to good weather  
areas allows more flexible planning of missions in China,  
permitting the operator to choose one of the variety of  
pre-planned mission routes rather than having to rely on  
a less accurate long-range weather forecast while seeking  
individual mission approvals. The opportunity of acquiring  
photography in clear areas and satisfying requirements<sup>1</sup>  
is considerably enhanced when a short reaction capability  
is authorized.

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- <sup>1</sup>a. Requirements for Coverage of South China (USIB-D41.14/283,  
March 1966)
- b. Long Range Reconnaissance Requirements of the Far East  
(USIB-D41.14/276, 19 January 1966)

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2. In view of the above, it is requested that the 303 Committee consider the relaxing of the present restrictions requiring mission-by-mission approval of the IDEALIST/TACKLE Program, and reaffirm the recurring bank of four missions per month.

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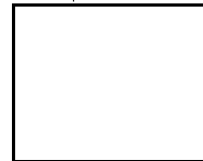
Alexander H. Flax  
Director  
National Reconnaissance Office

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SAS/O/OSA,  (3 June 1968)

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